El Caballero

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL | DECEMBER 19, 1986 | VOLUME LXIX | NUMBER 4

Patchen Markell and Neil Gross are excited about their win.

EC speakers win big

by Patchen Markell

The El Cerrito forensics team entered the height of the competitive season with victories at two important tournaments at the end of November.

Four Gaucho debaters competed at the Chicago Swing, a pair of tournaments which draws top debate teams from all over the country. Sophomore Neil Gross and Senior Patchen Markell finished 9th out of 71 teams at the second tournament, held at Northwestern University. Senior Sarah Armstrong and Junior Dmitri Mehlhorn missed elimination rounds at the same tournament by only 1 win, finishing with a 4-4 record.

While the debaters were in Chicago, the rest of the team attended an individual events tournament at Montgomery High School in Santa Rosa. Seniors Barbara Johnston and Connie Anderson placed second in Humorous Interpretation and Expository Speaking, and Junior Leonard Hooper placed second in Original Prose and Poetry. Sophomores Chris Harmon and Wendy Gough received 5th place awards in Extemporaneous Speaking and Dramatic Interpretation, Senior Indra Coles placed 5th in Thematic Interpretation, and Freshman Nola Capuano placed 5th in Dramatic Interpretation.

Ticking alarms ECHS

by Jonathan Bradley

Administration evacuated the second and third floors Thursday, Dec. 11 as a precautionary measure because of a ticking heard in one of the lockers.

During lunch Ms. Lagerstrom, a teacher, was told by several students that a ticking noise was coming from the vicinity of the third floor lockers. She informed the main office immediately.

Security believed the situation serious enough to evacuate the people from the area. Students and faculty were moved to the cafeteria and gymnasium.

The two floors were sealed off and the police began a search. Although the noise was believed to come from a particular locker, they deemed it necessary to search the surronding lockers to be on the safe side.

When the noise was located, it was found to be a Walkman that was accidentally turned on from the weight of the books placed upon it.

Thieves break into cage

by Jonathan Bradley

On November 19, the boys locker room was broken into sixth period by two burglars who used bolt cutters to snap the locks off lockers and steal personal possestions from students.

It is suspected that one was a lookout while the other proceeded to cut the locks and put the items into a duffle bag. When they were finished the burglars walked off the campus unoticed. The robbery took place in about a 20 to 25 minute period while the P.E.classes were on the field. It was reported that items stolen from 20 lockers ranged from money, clothes, watches and books.

coaches and students are puzzled to how it happened with all the people around. One theory was that the burglars were well aware of the schedule, waiting until the classes went outside. Also because the coaches only had two T.A.'s instead of the usual four, they weren't able to monitor the area closely. Tthe T.A's available had to help on the field. When the robbery happened, Coach nuber and milo's classes were both on the field along with the T.A's. One student who was in class says he saw a person who wasn't from this school walking away from the locker room with a duffle bag but he didn't think much of it at the time.

Christmas rally flops

by Dmitri Mehlhorn

The Christmas 7A rally on December the twelfth had a low attendance and minimal participation, and seemed to be utterly lacking in Gaucho spirit.

These things were certainly true at Friday's rally. There were almost no seniors whatsoever, and the Wrestling team wasn't allowed to come. The underclassmen had unanimously low attendance, and the freshmen were the only class who got their act together for a skit.

Still, the rally did have some high points. The women's tennis team was introduced, and then Seniors Bob Ginn, Mark Baker, and Pete Baladeo busted out with a rap, to which the audience got juiced and rapped along. The varsity basketball teams, boys and girls both, were introduced, and the team captains encouraged support. The frosh skit followed, in which the freshmen dressed up as Santa and elves, and still more freshmen hijacked Santa's crew. The skit ended with a rap by Santa and two of the hijackers.

On a closing note, a huge rap crew led by Doug Price and Chuck Anderson busted out with the beat, but a microphone failure broke it up halfway through, and the rally ended on an unfinished note.

Support the needy and donate to the Care-A-Van canned food drive at ECHS.

FEATURES

San Quentin, from the inside out

by Elisa Sagle

If one were to experience San Quentin State Prison, he would think he were on another planet. It is a world that most of us on the outside would consider completely alien to our values and attitudes.

Father McMennis, the Catholic prison chaplin and Rabbi Avi Levine, former prison chaplin, shared their perspectives about the prison experience. In the opinion of both, the prison environment is varied and potentially explosive. For example, the Jewish prisoners celebrate Chanukah mostly among themselves because they cannot have a family group as is done at Christmas. This year the Catholic Arch Bishop of San Francisco will be leading the Christmas morning services. About half of the prison population who are not locked up for protection purposes will attend this special service. Also, this year thousands of donated Christmas cards were distributed to the prisoners.

According to Levine, the relationship between prisoners is, on the one hand, helpful and on the other potentially volatile. They do favors for each other to get steaks, clean laundry, and baths more than twice a week.

However, on the other side of the coin, stated McMennis gangs are the biggest problem. Every racial group is represented. There are not a great number of gangs but the population within them is enormous. Eventhough, there are some prisoners who are not involved, the pressure on them to join is immense. This polarization causes much tension among the different races. As of this interview, there is a lock-down because of the racial friction between a Black and a White gang.

According to McMennis, the basic relationship between prisoners and guards is one of weariness or distrust. In the lock-up units the guards must wear protective vests. On the day of this interview there were 7 shots fired by a guard in order to break up a stabbing. However, he added that an inmate came to talk to him about getting a Christmas card for a guard that a number of inmates wanted to sign. So there are some guards who are liked eventhough this might be the exception rather than the rule.

CONTINUED BACK PAGE

Parents visit their children over the holidays.

A Word From Your S.A.

DECEMBER:

19th:minimum day

24th:Gospel Ensemble Christmas Program-Little Theater

JANUARY:

5th:welcome back to school!

6th&7th:musical auditions, 3:30, Little Theater for "Annie Get Your Gun"

13th:All-City Council at De Anza, 9:30a.m.

19th:holiday-Martin Luther King's birthday

23rd:CSA flower sale

END OF FIRST SEMESTER!!

Thank you to all of you that donated blood December 8. It was very successful:138 pints of blood were donated.

Thank yous are also in order for those of you that brought cans in for KRON, channel 4, "Care-a-van". All donations of blood and cans are greatly appreciated.

A kitten's first Christmas

by Susan Chiang

This is a story about a little lost kitten who had encountered his very first family and with whom he celebrated his very first Christmas. Not every animal was as lucky as this small kitten. When he was lost and separated from his mother in the woods, he was left to freeze and die from hunger.

Christmas was a time of giving and receiving

The story tells of how two children, Julie and Jeffrey Thompson had found the kitten one day while they were riding down a hill on their sled. Julie had heard a sound coming from within the dried bushes and when she looked behind the bush, there stood the small, gray kitten shivering in the bitter wind. Julie and her brother ran back up the hill, Julie with the kitten in her arms and Jeffrey dragging their sled behind him. When they reached home, they called to their mother. Mrs. Thompson saw the cold little bundle in her daughter's arms and quickly told her to lay it down on the rug. Then she took out a small bowl and poured some milk into it. At first the kitten wouldn't even smell it but slowly it began to lick the sweet soothing milk.

The Thompsons loved pets and they could not stand to see such a frail thing die. Slowly they nursed the kitten back to its original health and gave him lots of love and attention. Come Christmas time the kitten had completely restored his health.

On the day of Christmas, as the Thompsons sat around a warm blazing fire, their thoughts roamed back to their very first Christmas togerther. Christmas was a very special holiday for them, for it brought joy and happiness to everyone. They thought back to the time when Julie and Jeffrey were born, how special their Christmas was! As for the kitten, he was curled up in front of the warm fire and he let his mind drift back to the very first day he was born, to how the Thompson's children had found him shivering in the snow, and to now, sitting in front of the fire and enjoying the company around him. He didn't really know about the true meaning about Christmas. He didn't know that Christmas was a time of giving and receiving, forgiving and remembering. He didn't know that it was a time to share love and happiness to everyone and especially to save little helpless kittens. Though he didn't know why there were gifts under the tree and lights shining all over the town, it didn't matter to him, for Christmas was Christmas and all he knew that he was very, very happy.

A CHRISTMAS POEM

by Leonard Hooper

Deck the halls, sing the hymns

Brr, Christmas.

Its scent is on the winter winds

Man has sat and paid a horrid price

He waits, for this one day

To soothe throbbing wounds of life.

Small trees in small windows

Sparkling tinsel dimmed by pain

One day of peace and goodwill

A pleasant thought, but still

A dream left in the rain,

Happy Holidays?

Rotary student Cecile exchanges cultures

by Tina Goldberg

When she first came to America, she was "so lost." "I couldn't understand anything, and I lost my luggages. Now, however, Rotary Exchange Student Cecile Forgeaux feels comfortable in her new home. Cecile lives in Rouen, a large city in the north of France, an hour from Paris. She is the only exchange student at El Cerrito this year. In the past few months, Cecile has seen many similarities and differences between America and France.

Cecile wanted to be an exchange student after her stepsister traveled to the U.S. on a Rotary Program last year. "She wrote to me every day. It was so exciting." Cecile graduated from the 12th grade last year.

She knew she wanted to study international business, and thought a stay in the U.S. would be a good way to improve her English while learning about another culture.

Cecile interests "sports." In her leisure time she was active in sailing, windsurfing,tennis, horseback riding and dance. She also taught sailing classes in the summer.

El Cerrito High is different from Cecile's school in France. French students must declare certain "sections" of study when they enter school. "You don't have any choice of classes." Cecile's sections included philosophy, language, and math. The entire senior year, she and her classmates studied for the Baccaleaureate exam. The "Bac" tests a student's knowledge in his areas of study. It is more important than senior year grades and achievements. "If you don't pass the Bac, you have to take another year of school."

While Cecile studied hard during her 7 years of English , she has found language classes more vocal in the U.S. "In France, we only do the exercises and listen to the teacher."

CONTINUED BACK PAGE

EC Police Explorers=future cops of America

by Trina Tucker

I always wanted to be a Girl Scout when I was a little girl, but my mother never had the time to be a troop leader. I was always jealous of those girls who would come to school on Wednesdays in their uniforms. I have, however, since gotten over that feeling of jealousy. Now I am an Explorer Scout.

The Explorer Scouts are affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and are sponsored by local police departments. The main reason I decided to be sworn into the El Cerrito Explorer post #314 one rainy September night has little to do with scouting. I joined because I am interested in law enforcement.

Christmas patrol is our main duty this time of year. Explorers patrol the El Cerrito Plaza, helping shoppers to their cars with purchases, visibly discouraging shoplifters and muggers, and communicating with the police department via radio about plaza activity.

Other duties include doing station station work at the police station for four hours per month. During these hours, Explorers may register and license bicycles, do secretarial work, tidy the station, and check the patrol cars to make sure all equipment is in operating order. Police cars need fingerprinting kits, brooms, flares, and vests.

vacation house checks may be done. This involves driving a marked patrol car to a residence that has requested security checks. The Explorers make sure doors and windows are secure and that nothing has been tampered. These checks are made while the regular police staff is on vacation.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

Explorers are not junior police as some people think. We do not carry batons or weapons of any kind. Our only weapons are our eyes, for we are responsible for observing all that happens around us. We must stay in the car at all times, unless the officer says it is safe for us to get out of the car.

When we get out of the car, it could be to direct traffic around an accident or to light flares or keep people away from an accident scene. We check cars with expired registration, and check up on businesses to make sure no suspicious people are hanging around.

Explorers are not junior police like some people think

Many people ask me why I am an Explorer Scout. Usually, they congratulate the officer I'm riding with for "finally catching her!" and also tell him to "don't let her go!" These remarks don't bother me as much as it may sound. I figure I will have to put up with much worse if and when I become a police officer.

The Explorers and the post advisors (El Cerrito Police Officers) meet twice a month and we are currently planning skiing and camping trips for the near future.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

The Explorer post is a way of preparing me for my chosen profession. Others are in the post just for the experience and the understanding of how the police department works.

If you are interested in joining or perhaps want more information, contact either Officer Danielson or Officer Guggemos at the El Cerrito Police Department at 237-2123.

Thanks, but no thanks

by Jef Bekes

Wondering what to do with that traveling shaving kit from your uncle Herman, or that pink and orange acrylic sweater your grandmother thought might look cute on you? You could always just throw it into a dark corner of your closet and hope it disappears, or maybe you could give it to someone else for a gift, but what are they gonna do with it? Well, since it's holiday season again, I suppose it's time you were exposed to the fine art of returning a gift.

Well, nothing's hard about that, if you happen to have the receipt, but, like most of America, we tend to forget little details, like receipts, when it comes to holiday shopping. Also, it's important to remember that some gifts, like books or calendars, are easier to return than others, like arctic fishing trousers.

You can always try to return a gift at a store that doesn't carry the item, but be prepared for a big argument from the clerk.

Often, you will run across a stubborn clerk who refuses to believe that the store does, or at one time did carry the item to be returned.

This is where big department stores come in handy-- especially around the holiday seasons, large flocks of shoppers are prominent, and as a rule of thumb, clerks tend to avoid loud arguments in front of the shoppers. This is where you must utilize and completely exploit the notion that "the customer is always right."

Big department stores are usually a good bet, partially because they handle so many different products, and also because you can always claim that you bought it at one of their other outlets, far, far away. But, don't worry if you can't find a place that carries your item, you're not at a complete loss. This is where the second consideration comes in.

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OPINIONS

It's the thought that counts, right?

by Darren Kani

Christmas is the time for giving, or so they say. When you get a gift, no matter how cheap or inappropriate it may seem, you are always reminded with that trite phrase "it's the thought that counts." Maybe so. But wouldn't it be nice to get something you liked once in a while?

I myself, have been plagued by gifts I think I would have been better off not getting. Brown and orange shirts with horizontal stripes. I hate brown. I especially hate brown with orange. When its put together with stripes of an unusual width, the result is something rather dislikeable. I once got a road map and a rubber octopus from a friend who shall remain nameless. Cheeap!!! But I always kept in mind "It's the thought that counts."

When my brother and I were younger we never bothered to save money for Christmas. As a result we often exchanged less than appropriate gifts during the holiday season. One year my brother gave me novelty disappearing ink, loaded dice, and to top it all off, "albino poo-poo" which amounted to nothing more than carefully formed toilet paper that resembled the real thing. He claimed they were "carefully harvested by pygmies to impress their harems." In return, I gave

CONTINUED COLUMN 4

him to velcro baseball gloves that I got from puzzle I made in science class. So I too, am guilty of these cheap gifts. "It's the thought that counts." My mother reminded us as we glared at each other in disgust.

This phrase is not limited to the Christmas season. I once got "Spiderman " pajamas from my grandmother. I was fourteen at the time. Good Lord ! At least they weren't "underoos". "It's the thought that counts " I reminded myself.

Don't think I'm being ungrateful or snotty. I know when I grow old, and then a father, and eventually a grandfather, I will have given out as many rotten gifts just as I received. I suppose everybody has to do it at least once in his life.

I'll tell you what kind of gifts are inappropriate at holiday occasions so you won't make any mistakes and get anyone mad: 1. used anything. Unless it's extremely valuable sentimentally or money wise. 2. Plastic animals like the kind on birthday cakes or out of the bargain bin at "Mr. Mopps." 3. Stale "Granny Goose popcorn." 4. Little kids tend not to appreciate clothes for Christmas. They want "He-Man" and "Kid-Sister". 5. orange or beige bell-bottom cords. If there is anything that embarrasses anyone more, is having to wear orange or beige bell-bottom cords from a friend so you won't hurt their feelings...

And the list goes on. I suppose what I am basically trying to say is that everybody gets crock gifts, and it's okay. It can get so ridiculous sometimes that it may make me feel angry. But we all must spare the person's feelings because any gift is given with good intentions. We have to stop and think that maybe there is more truth to those five words than we think.

Do you remember?

by Ray Yokoi

Unfortunately, for many of us, every year Christmas is considered a "shopping spree", time when you go to the department store to buy presents and gifts. But the truth about Christmas is the direct opposite of this. "Commercialism" has warped the original idea of Christmas which is a holiday celebrating good friends,family,and good will,and turned it into a materialistic holiday "celebrating" presents.

We have forgotten , by commercialized indoctrination, how to be thankful. During the numerous ads and advertisements we will see this Christmas season, we should try to think of those who are less fortunate than us. not of how bad-off we are just because we don't have a swimming pool or a Ferrari. Besides being "thankful", Christmas means good will and

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It's just too much

by Michelle Tang

Next year's freshmen, the class of 1991, will not only have to get used to and adapt to all the usual things that the incoming "freshies" always get, such as the worst lockers of the entire school, Hell Week, new buildings, and new - sometimes hostile, sometimes intimidating - people, but just when they get used to everything and think the worst is over, they will have to come face to face with - Econ.

Economics will be a required course for these students in their sophomore year, just like math and English, as if they didn't have enough to handle and juggle.

But don't laugh, future juniors and sophomores. Yes, class of '89 and '90, I'm talking to you. Because, you see, the class of '90 will have to take Econ next year, too, and the administration just might make next year's juniors take it also. Running won't help once they make up their minds.

I can understand why the administration feels that students should take Econ in their sophomore year - they don't have a required history class that year, anyway. But next year's juniors will have American Experience with its infamous Bailey. Why do we need Econ, too? With Chemistry, Algebra II or Math Analysis and English along with the dreaded debates and tests in American Experience, we'll already be swamped with new information and loads of work and research to cope with.

Those of us who plan to attend a college already have so many requirements to fulfill: four years of math, four years of English, three years of a foreign language, two years of Fine Arts, two years of physical education, and two years of a physical and life science to get into a good college. We don't have too many electives left after that. And if you wanted to major in - say, Journalism - you should have some information to back you up. Journalism I or II would take up yet another precious elective. So would creative writing, orchestra, dance, art, auto shop, AP Chemistry or Marine Biology.

And if you weren't going to go to college, that would still be one less interesting elective of your own choice that you could take. So why bother to offer all of these terrific classes here at ECHS if we can't take them?

Now, Econ is probably a great class - that's what I'm told by a lot of people - and since the sophomores don't have any history credit in the tenth grade, it would probably be fun for them. But next year's juniors should be left out of this new change, simply because of their time constraints.

The Meaning of Christmas

by Marisa Taylor

Do some of you believe Christmas originated in a shopping mall? Or that gift's are something one recieves rather than gives? Lately it seem's like we're all getting out of touch with what Christmas is all about.

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El Caballero is an official student publication of El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury, El Cerrito, California 94530. The opinions expressed in these editorials are not necessarily those of the El Caballero or the ECHS administration. All letters to the editor must be written and signed; the writer's name will be withheld by request. For advertising rates, write to El Cerrito High School, c/o Journali[illegible]partment.

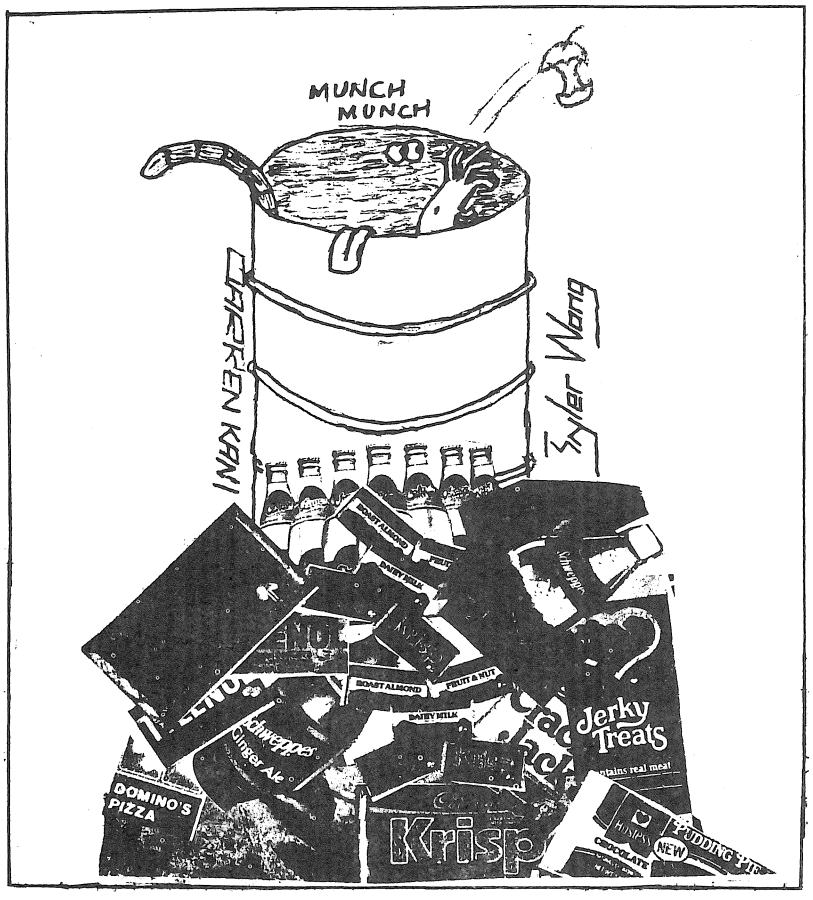
It's a dirty job...

by Jessica Buehring

You see it as you approach the fence. You see it as you descend the stairs. You see it surrounding the tennis courts. The unsightly litter problem has been growing like a fungus at our school for years, but what is the solution, if any?

A garbage can sits on the sidewalk opposite a gate entrance to the school. Yet, on the way to the football field, plastic potato chip bags, bottles, cigarette packages, and even clothes are seen half-buried in the ground. When the end-of-lunch bell rings, students are seen leaving rings of soggy brown bags and half eaten sandwiches behind them on the grassy football field. Flocks of seagulls wait, pearched on the buildings, ready to attack any visible remains of food. The litter problem isn't too bad in the paved central area of the school, but is at it's worst in the bushes and trampled waste aea that surrounds the field.

When asked why they litter, students say, "I'm too tired to pick it up," or, "I don't care," or they just walk off and say nothing at all, leaving the disposal of their refuse to someone else or to the wind. These people are not forced to throw their garbage away, so they don't. There is so much garbage around, it doesn't look like one person's effort will do much good. After a while, nobody cares.



Pressure on irresponsible people who feel they have the right to leave their garbage anywhere they please will make them feel they have to clean it up. This could be achieved by having monitors patrol the school grounds which might get the offenders into the habit of cleaning up on a regular basis. We can continue to have trash clean-ups as punishment for students that break the rules. Garbage cans can be put in places that now lack them. Group participation efforts to clean up will encourage students to volunteer their services and will therefore promote spirit. Also, some sort of incentive to clean up could be awards given to those who collect the most garbage. In order to achieve a clean campus, everyone must do his part.

Christmas

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Christmas is a time when loved one's and family should be together, sharing, caring, spreading joy, and cheer with others. Christmas is more than giving and recieving, it's giving to people love and affection from your heart and soul. It's also the beauty of wreath's, the sight of mistle toe, and the smell of Pine in one's home that make's the holiday season so special. So this holiday season while having fun opening gift's from loved one's, keep in mind the true meaning of Christmas.

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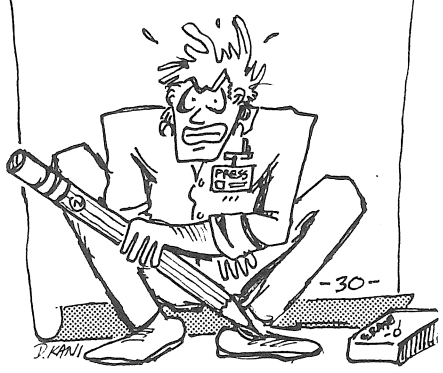

Do you remember?

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cheer, thinking of others less fortunate than you and promoting good tidings.

Christmas **shouldn't** only be remembered by presents or sales. Christmas wasn't supposed to be an excuse for stores to try to sell you "everything under the sun". I don't mean that I want people to sell all their belongings and send the money to Ethopia this Christmas, but I don't want to see children putting more emphasis on whether or not they got "G.I.JOE with the kung-fu grip" than whether or not people are hungry this Christmas. I just want people to remember what Christmas really means, something alot of people obviously don't know.

Garbled communication

by Bobby Morgan

"Lunch today is, oh, whoops, I lost it, well, lunch today is in the cafeteria." Statements like this one are beginning to make students feel that the extra ten minutes of second period for announcements are a waste of time. This type of statement and others make it seem as though the announcers are using the PA system for a comedy routine. This would be fine, but messages are often jumbled or butchered leaving students confused. This situation must be changed.

The morning announcers are obviously unorganized. As stated in the previous quote, messages are lost.

Mrs. Berman, the forensics coordinator, has had messages about meetings lost or neglected. This causes a problem. Mrs. Berman ends up having to communicate with half hercompetitors by word of mouth, and has to postpone her meetings until all the competitors can be there.

This problem can be easily changed. All that has to be done is have the announcers come in earlier in the morning to prepare, or have them take these messages home to prepare the evening before.

Another solution is to have more qualified speakers read the announcements. I believe the first would be more fair, but either would suffice. As I said before, the situation must change. To end, here is a common closing statement from a morning announcer: "Have a, well, uh, gee, well, that kind of day."

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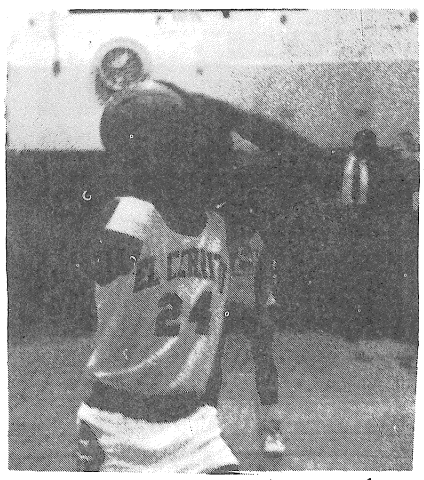
STUDIO

Guys play tough; Girls take Championship

by Amy Page

The Gaucho Hoopsters, plagued by injuries, dropped a game to Skyline High last Friday in a non-league match-up, 48-36.

After the defeat, EC's record fell to 2-3 for the season. The Gauchos played Vallejo on Tuesday and are currently competing in the Ed Hopkins Tourney.



Brandon Lee, an image of intensity.

The Gauchos will play against DeAnza here on December 23 at 5:30 and 7:30. They will participate in the Redwood and Salesian Tourneys December 26 through the 31st.

Against Skyline, EC took a 16-8 lead early into the second quarter. At halftime, the Titans had tied the score, 20-20.

In the second half, the Titans ran away with the game, taking advantage of Gaucho turnovers and fouls. Juniors Anthony Colbert and Brandon Lee and senior James Sloan all fouled out of the game.

Highscorer for the Gauchos was sophomore Quentin Youngblood with 10 points. Lee added 8 points while Colbert and Sloan each had six. Junior Myron Mason contributed 4 points and sophomore Charles Brown scored 2.

In a game against Oakland Tech, on Tuesday, December 9, the Gauchos were unable to handle the Bulldogs' choking zone defense in a 65-53 loss.

Forced to take risky outside shots by the strong defensive play of the Bulldogs, EC trailed from the beginning. Behind 48-32 in the fourth quarter, the Gauchos went on a 10-1 tear to cut the lead to 49-42.

Lee scored 22 points for EC as Youngblood added 13 and Ford made 9.

The Gauchos took third place in the Marin-Catholic Tournament, coming from behind in the fourth quarter to beat Sacred Heart, 51-44.

Lee scored the team high with 17 points while Youngblood added 13 points. The Gauchos played tough, agressive defense to hold Sacred Heart within reach.

EC advanced to the game for third place after losing to Marin Catholic in a heartbreaking double overtime defeat, 56-52.

The Gauchos beat Hogan, 58-42, in the first game of the tournament. Ford had 19 points and Youngblood 12 in the EC victory.

by Amy Page

The Lady Hoopsters captured the Skyline Tournament Championship last Saturday night, after beating Newark Memorial, 57-39.

The girls' basketball team played Newark Memorial again Tuesday night. Last night they faced Moreau in the Oakland Coliseum before a Golden State Warriors-Washington Bullets.

In this week's East Bay Writers' Association Girls' Basketball Poll, the El Cerrito Gauchos are ranked in first place with an 8-0 record.

The Lady Hoopsters will compete in the Bishop O'Dowd Tourney, December 27 through the 30th.

Senior Lauren Strickland, who scored 17 points against the Cougars and 45 in all three games, was chosen as the tournament MVP. Seniors Lisa Nakamura and Linda Schultz (49 points in tournament) were selected to the all-tournament team.

Skyline tournament MVP Lauren Strickland burns defense.

Schultz was recently featured as an Athlete of the Week in the Oakland Tribune and Strickland earned the same honors for the West County Times.

The Gauchos held on to a close lead for the first three quarters (36-33; 26-24 at halftime) in the Championship game, before breaking away for the victory led by Schultz's hot hand.

Schultz hit seven of nine fourth quarter shots to pull the Gauchos to the 57-39 title game victory. Schultz scored 23 for the night. Strickland added 17 points as well as 10 rebounds, four assists and four steals. Senior Janet Schultz put in 7 points and point-guard Nakamura scored 5 points and had six steals and 13 assists.

EC advanced to the title game by defeating Amador Valley and Leland.

In the game against Amador, Nakamura's five assists and four steals in the fourth quarter sparked the Gauchos to a 48-40, come-from-behind victory.

Strickland led the Lady Hoopsters with 20 points, 7 rebounds and 2 assists. Sophomore Vicki Kalu had 11 rebounds and 8 points while Linda Schultz added 17 boards and 10 points.

Wrestling hits mat

by Craig Wong

The Gaucho Wrestling team has gotten off to a rough start, but there has been some bright spots on the team. The grapplers opened the season with preseason losses to Alhambra and Monte Vista, and a dissapointing, but inspiring ninth place finish in the Dual Meet Tournament held here at El Cerrito.

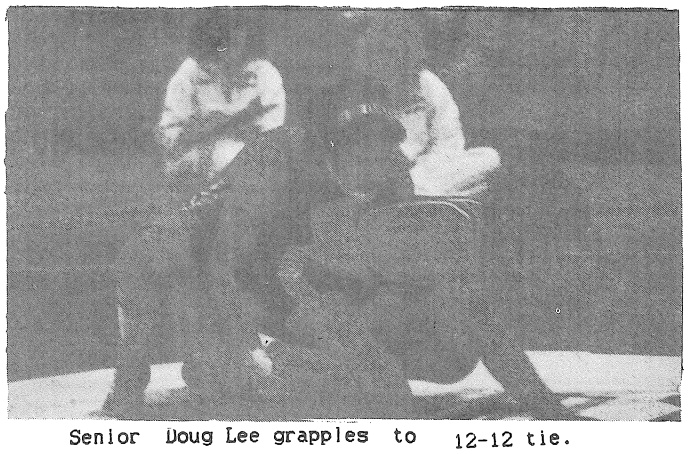
In their preseason opening 43-23 loss to Alhambra, a few Gauchos showed what to expect in the future. Sophomore Aaron Green pulled out a narrow 9-8 decision, and junior Richard Cheney and senior leaders Chuckie Anderson and Shawn Garrett were overpowering, all three pinning thier opponents. Garrett was especially devestating, winning in 51 seconds, recieving praise from coach Takahashi for being aggressive. Senior Doug Lee also wrestled well, grappling to a 12-12 tie.

On December 6, the Gauchos hosted the Dual Meet Tournament. In the opening round, the Gauchos suffered a dissapointing loss to Terra Nova, 36-27. In the match they should have won, according to Takahashi, freshmen Richard Bennett and Dustin Kehoe, and Sophomore Troy Jennings wrestled to early victories. But the Gauchos lost nine matches in a row in the mid and heavyweight classes.

Takahashi pulled the Gauchos together after the loss, and they came together to pull off consecutive victories over Novato, American, Hoopa, and O'Connell. Good performances were turned in by Freshman Dustin Kehoe, sophomores green and CJ Belcher, juniors Jason Skirry and Dmitri Mehlhorn, and senior Doug Lee. Outstanding wrestling was displayed by Jennings and Garrett, who both went undefeated throughout the five round tournament.

On December 10, the Gauchos traveled to Danville to face the Monte Vista Mustangs. The Gauchos did not wrestle to their full capabilities, and the strong Monte Vista team took advantage of the lack of Gaucho spirit, destroying El Cerrito, 53-6. And with no consulation, the lone Gaucho victory came by forfeit.

The Gauchos wrestled Tennyson last Wednesday, but due to lack of time, we are unable to report the results of the meet. The Gauchos travel North today, to the Clayton Valley Holiday Classic. The next home meet will be on January 15th, against Albany.



Senior Doug Lee grapples to 12-12 tie.

SOCCER BOUNCES UP & DOWN

by Jeffrey Pryde

The EC Men's soccer team had its ups ands downs in late preseason action. EC lost to Moreau 4-1 ,beat St Mary's High 3-2, and tied Piedmont 1-1.

EC will take their 2-3-1 record into the home game against College Park at 7:30 tonight.

In the Moreau game , Moreau jumped out to a 4-0 at halftime. Coach Catao moved Danny Smith from striker to sweeper and Larry Hengl from midfield to striker in the second half. EC's defense held Moreau scoreless in the second half while Danny Smith scored an EC goal but ended up losing 4-1.

Larry Hengl gives it his all.

EC jumped out to a 1-0 lead early in the first half of the ST. Mary's game. EC's Larry Hengl and Rune Hoyer-Nielson each scored a goal to give the Gauchos a 3-0 lead at halftime. In the second half St.Mary's came back to score two goals, one off a direct free kick and another on a breakaway. However, EC's defense held on and the Gauchos won the game, 3-2.

"This game was vital for our self-esteem after our mental and physical lapse in the Moreau game," remarks EC coach Catao.

In the next game against Piedmont, EC's morale was shot up early in the game when sweeper Danny Smith cleared the ball 70 yards away towards the goal and the ball managed to bounce over the keeper's head and right into the goal. Unfortunately, it was called back because of an off-side penalty.

Right away the Gauchos knew the keeper could be scored on easily and proceeded to take as many shots as possible. Unfortunately, out of EC's 26 shots at the goal throughout the game, they only managed to put in one.

Chad Jorgenson in action.

Late in the second half, Piedmont scored a goal off a breakaway after a controversial call, catching EC's defense off guard, setting up an one-on-one situation against EC's goalie, Chidi Imaga and Piedmont scored. Piedmont and EC ended up tying 1-1.

PREP PICK

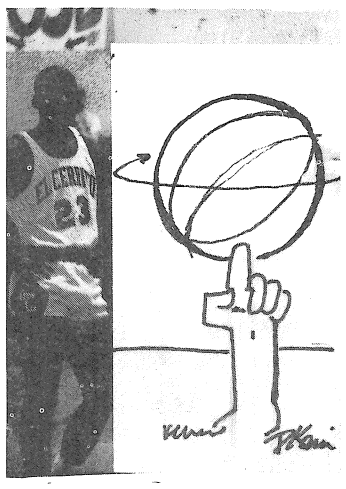
Dr "Q" Youngblood: EAT, SLEEP & BREATHE HOOP

by Kari Chew

"One day I want to dunk like Dr. J. I like the way he jumps." Could this have motivated sophomore Quentin Youngblood in doing well in basketball ? In four games he has averaged 15 points and five rebounds per game. Not bad for someone who did not even know what basketball was five years ago. "I played football for the Eastshore League and my coach told me to come out for basketball after football season."

In the fifth grade he started at center but by the eighth grade he switched to the guard position. He now had to refine his ball handling abilities and play tough defense in order to stop quick guards from driving or passing to the inside rather than trying to stop a center from scoring. These skills were accomplished by working out in the summertime with better players. "In the summer before the ninth grade I worked out with CAL Berkeley guards Chris Washington and Kevin Johnson and foward Lenord Taylor. That's what helped me most."

In the beginning he was intimidated, "they were so much better and taller" but they built his confidence up. "They talked to me a lot and told me what I was doing wrong. Just by watching them I learned so many things. " One thing he learned how to play defense. "I had to stop them somehow. "



Prep pick Quentin Youngblood

Quentin claims that defense is the best part of his game, and the key to a good offense. "I like to shut people down and I like to rebound. think a good defense will stop our opponents from scoring and get us juiced for our offense "

"We don't have much of an offense when he (Raymond Ford) is injured. He's one of the best guards in the East Bay; without him the tempo of the offense is slow. That's why I need to concentrate on defense. I need to slow down the other teams offense while we build up ours.

How did Quentin adjust to a new coach? "I like him," he explains, "We got off to a slow start at first because we weren't used to him. He really emphasizes hard work. I love to work hard." Quentin feels that hard work will make him a better player.

What's next for Quentin? "After I learn how to dunk like the Doctor, I want play for Georgetown and then the Lakers or with Michael Jordan. But until then, I'll eat, sleep and breathe basketball."

"He's very dedicated," coach Huber adds.

"I couldn't live without it," he finishes.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
Santa

CSA sweeps up

Armed with Glad bags and gloves members of the Chinese Student Association swept into action against litter.

On Saturday, December 6, 15 members of the Chinese Student Association passed up the chance to take the S.A.T. to rid the baseball field of lunch-time trash. Co-presidents Ed Aw and Lynn Bui arrived at the field armed with Glad bags and gloves to greet the rest of the students at 9:30 a.m.

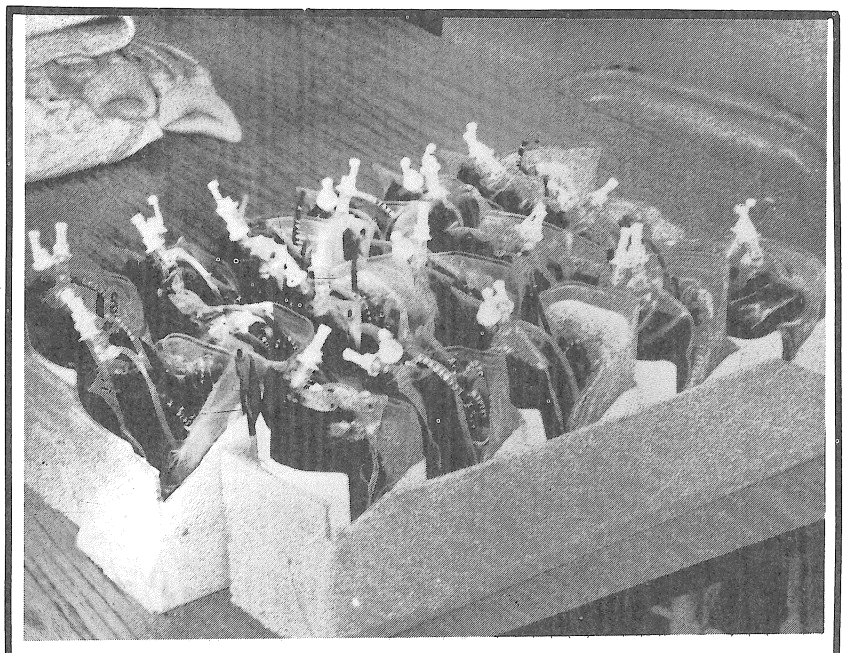
Among the selfless sanitation students were seniors Sarah Armstrong, Paul Bit, Jay Chang, and Max Rattapituck; juniors Lam Bui and Jenny Han; sophomore Alan Liu; and freshmen Lily Han, Amy Lee, Andy Liu, Hoa Luu, Frank Wang, and Kristine Yan.

Highlights of the clean-up included kudos form local tennis players, the finding of an almost useable softball, and a near fight after Ed and Max heatedly argued over whose bag held the most trash.

Ed and Lynn chose the activity to increase awareness of the CSA and to provide a useful service to the school. The CSA hopes these clean-ups become a regulart project; to provide an incentive for students to help, Ed plans on allowing each student who cleans free admission to a CSA activity.

Although it was convenient for students to be lazy and leave their trash so a student organization could get some publicity, the CSA concensus indicates that it would much more prefer to have an already clean school. It wants to help not only at the Saturday clean-ups, but at lunch, as well. "Wouldn't it be nice if everyone just threw away his own garbage?" commented Ed as he hunched over to pick up a half-empty beer bottle.

The CSA meets fairly regularly in Mr. Francis' room during lunch. The organization cencentrates on heightening awareness of Chinese culture and simply providing a group of friends for similarly interested students. The group does not limit its membership to Chinese or even Asians; All students are wholeheartedly invited to join.



Gauchos give a little bit of themselves.

Cecile CONTINUED

Christmastime in France includes a number of festivities. "We have a tree, and a big dinner, like in the United States.

Despite the rigors of school, Cecile remarked that her French friends like to "go out more" at lunchtime, to cafes. Here, "everyone stays on campus."

Turkey, yam, oyster, smoked salmon, and a special cake are made. Many of the songs, like Jingle Bells, are exactly the same, but they are in French." Christmas is "very important" because it is a big family event. Also, many French Catholics go to Midnight Mass.

The French Christmas is "just as commercial" as it is here, Cecile noted, although stores do not usually begin their big promotions until December. The Veteran's Army, like the American Salvation Army, collects money and goods for the needy.

While Cecile has no special Christmas memories, she did enjoy last year, when her family went skiing. This year, her American family plans to go to Tahoe.

In her short time here, Cecile has noticed many things about America. Most of all, Cecile has seen that to be a good exchange student,"a person must be patient, and shouldn't have unrealistic expectations."

Cage CONTINUED

Because of the break-in the coaches have now proceeded to chain one door inside the locker room and close the entrance door when no one is dressing. The caoches felt particulary helpless because there was nothing they could do. Quirico stated, "You don't expect someone to go into the locker room with bolt cutters, ...then only thing we we can do is ask ask the district to hire someone to sit in the locker room all day."Unfortunately the district cannot afford it.

There has been no monetary value placed on the items because only a few students have filed their claims. Students who were ripped off are encouraged to file a report with the descriptions of the items stolen.

This incident was the first and largest major burglary on campus during school hours but the administration points out that this was just a single occurance and that burglaries on campus are not on the rise.

The administration and police are encouraging students to report people who are not from this school. Because as Mr.Small, one of the security officers points out, "The police and administration are only as good as the student body."

Gifts CONTINUED

Often, you will run across a stubborn clerk who refuses to believe that the store does, or at one time did carry the item to be returned.

You must insist that the gift was infact purchased at the store.

You must convince the manager that you were merely trying to return a gift, when the clerk got all hussy-fussy. As a manager, he or she will back up the "customer is always right" theory and proceed to give you your money back.

Furthermore, you must make yourself heard; if the argument becomes loud enough, a manager may intervene to try to resolve the situation. Now you're faced with a most crucial situation.

No matter how wrong you are, or for that matter, how wrong the manager knows you are, he or she must live up to the friendly image of the department store and reimburse the customer. Gift returning is a game played between the always right customer and the subordinate department store, sometimes done for the mere challenge, but always inthe true hliday spirit.

San Quentin CONTINUED

When asked about any improvements that he has seen relating to the rehabilitation of prisoners, Levine stated that at first there were many programs stressing education and job training skills. However, later many of the programs were eliminated because of frustration on the part of the administration. Overpopulation makes it extremely difficult to manage programs and those in charge seem to feel that "It's easier just to keep them in their cages and not offer them things because they don't appreciate them.

McMennis sees it differently. He feels that there are many programs now because of court order; that there has been an increase in teachers for the already strong education program. The men in the lock-up units are getting much more education now because teachers are able to give the men more individual attention. Also through an excellent art program, the men are able to sell their works at the gift shop located just outside the prison. There are also hobby, sporting, and work incentive programs; the Department of Corrections is responsible for all this.

Levine was the first to answer the question of memorable experiences each has had at San Quentin. The two best times for him during the year are the Passover Sedar and the Rosh Hashanah Banquet because the prisoners took so much care in preparing for these two special occasions and also they were able to see their families.

For McMennis, it was seeing the dedication and love of the wife of one prisoner. She traveled 400 miles every weekend to visit her husband. Every Friday night she would drive to the prison with her son and spend Saturday and Sunday morining visiting; then return home to Southern California for work on Monday morining. She did this for five years. "There are people in Oakland and Richmond who only visit, at most, once a year, but she spends 16 hours on the road every weekend year after year."

Rabbi Levine sees the prisoners like "Animals caged in a zoo," while Father McMennis views San Quentin as "A concentration of all of society's problems.

Rabbi Levine, after spending 7 years as a prison chaplin hesitates to talk about his experiences because he feels that all his work didn't help. However, Father McMennis looks at the prison environment as challenging and exciting. He says that there is are a lot of good and kind things happening all the time.